

## PUBLIC HEALTH EPIDEMIOLOGIST

### NATURE OF WORK

This is technical and supervisory work in the collection and analysis of data regarding public health programs and the coordination of the epidemiologic response team for investigating infectious disease outbreaks and community health problems.

Work involves developing and conducting studies of the health needs of County residents and identifying modifications of existing programs or the need for new programs; documenting disease incidents and preparing reports which determine the frequency and need for control measures for certain diseases; preparing written reports and making oral presentations on study methodologies and findings to lay audiences and professionals at the state and national level; making recommendations regarding the design of public health programs; identifying public health problems that are potentially susceptible to interventions and designing and implementing those interventions; coordinating the response of the epidemiologic team to infectious disease outbreaks and unusual community health problems; and designing data collection instruments and monitoring routine data collection. General supervision is received from a professional or an administrative superior with work being reviewed in the form of conferences, reports submitted and results achieved. Supervision may be exercised over subordinate professional staff engaged in the collection of public health data or the investigation of infectious disease outbreaks and community health problems.

### EXAMPLES OF WORK PERFORMED

Develops and conducts studies of health needs of county residents and identifies modifications of existing programs or new programs designed to address those needs.

Documents disease incidents and reviews reports to determine frequency, interrelationships and need for control measures.

Prepares written reports and makes oral presentations on study methodologies and findings to professionals and lay audiences.

Identifies public health problems that are potentially susceptible to interventions and participates in the planning and implementation of methodologies designed to test those interventions.

Makes recommendations regarding the design of public health programs and provides input into the department's planning process.

Assures the coordinated response of the department's epidemiologic response team to infectious disease outbreaks and unusual community health problems.

Designs data collection instruments and monitors routine data collection to assure the maintenance of community health information for program planning.

Performs related work as required.

### DESIRABLE KNOWLEDGES, ABILITIES AND SKILLS

Extensive knowledge of sources of information, on disease incidents, recognized trends and vital event data by the state and the nation.

Thorough knowledge of the principles, practices and methodologies of epidemiology.

Thorough knowledge of the use of computers, database building and maintenance, and statistical analysis software such as SPSS and EPIINFO, in the collection and analysis of data.

General knowledge of the principles and methods of public health agencies, government organization and sound practices of public administration.

Working knowledge of the factors that affect the availability and utilization of health services and cause changes in the health status of the community.

Ability to maintain accurate and detailed records.

Ability to consolidate information from a variety of sources, and draw meaningful conclusions.

Ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing.

Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with subordinates, co-workers, public officials and the community.

Skill in the use of microcomputers and skill in the use of a keyboard.

#### DESIRABLE TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE

Graduation from an accredited four-year college or university and a Master's degree in public health with major course work in epidemiology, biostatistics, research methods and behavioral sciences plus considerable experience conducting epidemiologic investigations and in the use of computers and statistical software packages for data collection and analysis.

#### MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Graduation from an accredited four-year college or university with major course work in public health, epidemiology, biostatistics, research methods and behavioral sciences plus experience in epidemiologic investigations; or any equivalent combination of training and experience which provides the desired knowledges, abilities and skills.

#### NECESSARY SPECIAL REQUIREMENT

Possession of a valid State of Nebraska driver's license when operating a vehicle is necessary for the satisfactory performance of assigned duties.

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Department Head

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Personnel Director